GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5783
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2007
BUDDHIST CHAITYAS AND MONASTERY
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether three Buddhist Chaityas and a Monastery, a 3-dimentional structure, broken images, pillars and pottery from the first and second Century AD have been found in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of discovery made by ASI;

(c) whether it is also fact that Ghantasala village of Krishna District was first reported a historical sight by Buswell to the East India Company in 1870-71; and

(d) If so, the steps taken by the Government to excavate this area for more and more historical discoveries?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a)& (b) Yes, Sir. The scientific clearance, carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India at Yernampadu mound, Ghantasala (District Krishna, Andhra Pradesh) in February-March 2006, has exposed remains of three square brick platforms which were served to enshrine Buddhist statues, known as Buddhist chaitya.These platforms were referred to as three dimensional structures. In addition, fragmentary limestone pillars, architectural members and pottery of the first and second century A.D. were discovered.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Archaeological Survey of India carried out excavations at Yernampadu mound, Ghantasala (District Krishna, Andhra Pradesh) in 1984-85. Excavations revealed three cultural phases, and among other things, remains of a Buddhist monastic complex. In 2006, the Archaeological Survey of India undertook scientific clearance work here and exposed above-mentioned structural remains and artifacts. After exposure, conservation and preservation of important archaeological remains were undertaken.